



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: 8/9/06

Signature: [Signature]

(Susan Lanney)

Docket No.: VPI/98-104 CIP CON
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Keisuke Kuida *et al.*

Confirmation No.: 4567

Application No.: 09/728,173

Art Unit: 1632

Filed: December 1, 2000

For: CASPASE-9 DEFICIENT ANIMALS AND
THE USE THEREOF

Examiner: Louis D. LIETO

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUBMISSION FOR REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION
AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

This Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Submission is being filed in reply to the outstanding Final Office Action, mailed on November 4, 2005, and the Advisory Action, mailed on March 2, 2006, in connection with the above application. A Notice of Appeal was filed on May 4, 2006, and was received by the USPTO on May 9, 2006. Applicants respectfully request a ONE-month extension of time to file the Brief on Appeal. A Petition for Extension of Time and the appropriate fee are being filed concurrently. In lieu of filing a Brief on Appeal, Applicants are filing a Request for Continued Examination herewith.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.